Mr. Henry Hurt
Chatham, Va. 24531

7/15/82

Dear Henry,

In your last letter you say you will set the record straight on what happened to Hosty in your book. You've got a lot of reading to do. You or a research assistant, if you have one. I don't have the House hearing on it but I do have most of the records of the FBI inspector general's whit ewash. Jim can probably find easier than I a John Ray record we got in which the DJ reflects almost indicting Shanklin for perjury.

I've just finished another affidavit in which withheld Hosty records figure. They hid some in a "personnel" file when it was part of the IG's deal.

Part of what he now says is impossible and some of what he presents as proof of a conspiracy against him and his work is absolutely normal and proper.

Because he has to know this, I question his honesty or his rationality.

I've heard that his political views are of the extreme or the right extreme.

Our weather has been like yours, with similar weed production about which I now can't do much. Extraordinary rains, too. (Most of our weather comes from your way.) We have lots of birds, too, and a problem from them that may amuse you. I have six feeders on the windows. The small birds compete with themselves only there. But they waste much. Because they prefer sunflower seeds, we've been letting them have all they want. But the chipmunks and squirrels found them on the ground, and being smart, looked around for the source. So for months they've been going up to the window sills and feasting. I don't mind that, but they exercise no restraint. They began their excesses by climbing a feeder I have on a metal pole and messing it up. I have another feeder hanging from an angle attached to the TV mast. They've ruined every one I've had there. I may finally have them outwitted on that with a gadget I have yet to finish. I've an aluminum plate on the angle and another above the feeder. I've got to lash them so they won't vibrate and flash in the wind, which scares the birds. I've not seen them there and the birds are using it. But with this to attract them and feed them, we've had a real population explosion and another of rabbits, which are eating even tomato plants and flowers. So I've gotten traps for us and a neighbor from the state wildlife service. Not supposed to hold rabbits and chipmunks but of the 16 animals we've caught and moved elsewhere, two rabbits and three chipmunks. But we've still got too many of all three.

Best wishes,